

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) ~~An image transfer method as claimed in claim 9,~~ for an image transfer system wherein one or more terminal equipments and one or more facsimile apparatus are interconnected by a network, comprising the steps of:

outputting image data coded in accordance with a unique coding method by and stored in any of said facsimile apparatus to an arbitrary one of said terminal equipments; and

outputting a decoding program for decoding image data coded in accordance with the coding method to the terminal equipment in response to a request from the terminal equipment,

wherein any of said terminal equipments executes:

an operation instruction inputting step of inputting an operation instruction to initiate a WWW browser;

a program initiation step of initiating a program for the WWW browser in response to the operation instruction inputted by the operation instruction inputting step;

a WWW browser display step of displaying the WWW browser initiated by the program initiation step;

a URL discrimination step of discriminating whether or not a URL of any of said facsimile apparatus is inputted;

a HTML document data acquisition request notification step of sending, when it is discriminated by the URL discrimination step that a URL is inputted, a notification of an acquisition request for HTML document data to that one of said facsimile apparatus which has the URL through said network;

a HTML document data reception step of receiving the HTML document data transmitted from the facsimile apparatus in response to the notification of the acquisition request by the HTML document data acquisition request notification step;

a HTML document data display step of displaying the HTML document data received by the HTML document data reception step;

a program execution description discrimination step of discriminating whether or not a program execution description is present in the HTML document data displayed by the HTML document data display step;

a decoding program acquisition request notification step of sending, when it is discriminated by the program execution description discrimination step that the program execution description is present, a notification of an acquisition request for a decoding program to the facsimile apparatus;

a decoding program reception step of receiving the decoding program transmitted from the facsimile apparatus in response to the acquisition request notification by the decoding program acquisition request notification step;

a decoding program execution step of executing the decoding program received by the decoding program reception step;

an image data acquisition request notification step of sending a notification of an acquisition request for image data to the facsimile apparatus;

an image data reception step of receiving the image data transmitted from the facsimile apparatus in response to the acquisition request by the image data acquisition request notification step;

an image data decoding step of decoding the image data received by the image data reception step based on the decoding program executed by the decoding program execution step; and

an image data display step of displaying the image data decoded by the image data decoding step.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~An. image transfer method as claimed in claim 9,~~ for an image transfer system wherein one or more terminal equipments

and one or more facsimile apparatus are interconnected by a network, comprising the steps of:

outputting image data coded in accordance with a unique coding method by and stored in any of said facsimile apparatus to an arbitrary one of said terminal equipments; and

outputting a decoding program for decoding image data coded in accordance with the coding method to the terminal equipment in response to a request from the terminal equipment,

wherein any of said facsimile apparatus executes:

a coding step of coding image data included in data inputted to the facsimile apparatus over a public network in accordance with the unique coding method;

an image data storage step of storing the image data coded by the coding step;

a management step of managing the image data stored by the image data storage step and page information of the image data;

an acquisition request reception step of receiving an acquisition request transmitted from any of said terminal equipments over said network;

an acquisition request analysis step of analyzing the acquisition request received by the acquisition request reception step;

a first discrimination step of discriminating whether or not the acquisition request analyzed by the acquisition request analysis step is an acquisition request for HTML document data;

a HTML document data signaling step of signaling, when it is discriminated by the first discrimination step that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for HTML document data, the HTML document data to the terminal equipment;

a second discrimination step of discriminating, when it is not discriminated by the first discrimination step that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for HTML document data, whether or not the acquisition request is an acquisition request for a decoding program;

a decoding program signaling step of signaling, when it is discriminated by the second discrimination step that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for a decoding program, the decoding program to the terminal equipment;

a third discrimination step of discriminating, when it is not discriminated by the second discrimination step that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for a decoding program, whether or not the acquisition request is an acquisition request for image data;

an image data signaling step of signaling, when it is discriminated by the third discrimination step that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for image data, the image data to the terminal equipment; and

an error information signaling step of signaling error information when it is not discriminated by the third discrimination step that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for image data.

12. (Previously Presented) An image transfer method as claimed in claim 10, wherein any of said facsimile apparatus executes:

a coding step of coding image data included in data inputted to the facsimile apparatus over a public network in accordance with the unique coding method;

an image data storage step of storing the image data coded by the coding step;

a management step of managing the image data stored by the image data storage step and page information of the image data;

an acquisition request reception step of receiving an acquisition request transmitted from any of said terminal equipments over said network;

An acquisition request analysis step of analyzing the acquisition request received by the acquisition request reception step;

a first discrimination step or discriminating whether or the acquisition request analyzed by the acquisition request analysis step is an acquisition request for HTML document data;

a HTML document data signaling step of signaling, when it is discriminated by the first discrimination step that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for HTML document data, the HTML document data to the terminal equipment;

a second discrimination step of discriminating, when it is not discriminated by the first discrimination step that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for HTML document data, whether or not the acquisition request is an acquisition request for a decoding program;

a decoding program signaling step of signaling, when it is discriminated by the second discrimination step that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for a decoding program, the decoding program to the terminal equipment;

a third discrimination step of discriminating, when it is not discriminated by the second discrimination step that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for a decoding program, whether or not the acquisition request is an acquisition request for image data;

an image data signaling step of signaling, when it is discriminated by the third discrimination step that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for image data, the image data to the terminal equipment; and

an error information signaling step of signaling error information when it is not discriminated by the third discrimination step that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for image data.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Currently Amended) An image transfer method ~~as claimed in claim 13~~, for an image transfer system wherein one or more terminal equipments, one or more facsimile apparatus and a WWW server are interconnected by a network, comprising the steps of:

outputting image data coded in accordance with a unique coding method by and stored in any of said facsimile apparatus to a requesting one of said terminal equipments; and

outputting, from said WWW server in which a decoding program for decoding image data coded in accordance with the coding method, the decoding program to the terminal equipment in response to a request from the requesting terminal equipment,

wherein any of said facsimile apparatus executes:

a coding step of coding image data included in data inputted to the facsimile apparatus over a public network in accordance with the unique coding method;

an image data storage step of storing the image data coded by the coding step;

a management step of managing the image data stored by the image data storage step and page information of the image data;

an acquisition request reception step of receiving an acquisition request transmitted from any of said terminal equipments over said network;

an acquisition request analysis step of analyzing the acquisition request received by the acquisition request reception step;

a first discrimination step of discriminating whether or the acquisition request analyzed by the acquisition request analysis step is an acquisition request for HTML document data;

a HTML document data signaling step of signaling, when it is discriminated by the first discrimination step that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for HTML document data, the HTML document data to the terminal equipment;

a second discrimination step of discriminating, when it is not discriminated by the first discrimination step that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for HTML document data, whether or not the acquisition request is an acquisition request for image data;

an image data signaling step of signaling, when it is discriminated by the second discrimination step that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for image data, the image data to the terminal equipment; and

an error information signaling step of signaling error information when it is not discriminated by the second discrimination step that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for image data.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~An image transfer method as claimed in claim 13,~~ for an image transfer system wherein one or more terminal equipments, one or more facsimile apparatus and a WWW server are interconnected by a network, comprising the steps of:

outputting image data coded in accordance with a unique coding method by and stored in any of said facsimile apparatus to a requesting one of said terminal equipments; and

outputting, from said WWW server in which a decoding program for decoding image data coded in accordance with the coding method, the decoding program to the terminal equipment in response to a request from the requesting terminal equipment,

wherein any of said terminal equipments executes:

an operation instruction inputting step of inputting an operation instruction to initiate a WWW browser;

a program initiation step of initiating a program for the WWW browser in response to the operation instruction inputted by the operation instruction inputting step;

a WWW browser display step of displaying the WW browser initiated by the program initiation stop;

a URL discrimination step of discriminating whether or not a URL of any of said facsimile apparatus is inputted;

a HTML document data acquisition request notification step of sending, when it is discriminated by the URL discrimination step that a URL is inputted, a

notification of an acquisition request for HTML document data to that one of said facsimile apparatus which has the URL through said network;

a HTML document data reception step of receiving the HTML document data transmitted from the facsimile apparatus in response to the notification of the acquisition request by the HTML document data acquisition request notification step;

a HTML document data display step of displaying the HTML document data received by the HTML document data reception step;

a program execution description discrimination step of discriminating whether or not a program execution description is present in the HTML document data displayed by the HTML document data display step;

a decoding program acquisition request notification step of sending, when it is discriminated by the program execution description discrimination step that the program execution description is present, a notification of an acquisition request for a decoding program to said WWW server;

a decoding program reception step of receiving the decoding program transmitted from said WWW server in response to the acquisition request notification by the decoding program acquisition request notification step;

a decoding program execution step of executing the decoding program received by the decoding program reception step;

an image data acquisition request notification step of sending a notification of an acquisition request for image data to the facsimile apparatus;

an image data reception step of receiving the image data transmitted from the facsimile apparatus in response to the acquisition request by the image data acquisition request notification step;

an image data decoding step of decoding the image data received by the image data reception step based on the decoding program executed by the decoding program execution step; and

an image data display step of displaying the image data decoded by the image data decoding step.

16. (Original) An image transfer method as claimed in claim 14, wherein any of said terminal equipments executes:

an operation instruction inputting step of inputting an operation instruction to initiate a WWW browser;

a program initiation step of initiating a program for the WWW browser in response to the operation instruction inputted by the operation instruction inputting step;

a WWW browser display step of displaying the WWW browser initiated by the program initiation step;

a URL discrimination step of discriminating whether or not a URL of any of said facsimile apparatus is inputted;

a HTML document data acquisition request notification step of sending, when it is discriminated by the URL discrimination step that a URL is inputted, a notification of an acquisition request for HTML document data to that one of said facsimile apparatus which has the URL through said network;

a HTML document data reception step of receiving the HTML document data transmitted from the facsimile apparatus in response to the notification of the acquisition request by the HTML document data acquisition request notification step;

a HTML document data display step of displaying the HTML document data received by the HTML document data reception step;

a program execution description discrimination step of discriminating whether or not a program execution description is present in the HTML document data displayed by the HTML document data display step;

a decoding program acquisition request notification step of sending, when it is discriminated by the program execution description discrimination step that the program execution description is present, a notification of an acquisition request for a decoding program to said WWW server;

a decoding program reception step of receiving the decoding program transmitted from said WWW server in response to the acquisition request notification by the decoding program acquisition request notification step;

a decoding program execution step of executing the decoding program received by the decoding program reception. step;

an image data acquisition request notification step of sending a notification of an acquisition request for image data to the facsimile apparatus;

an image data reception step of receiving the image data transmitted from the facsimile apparatus in response to the acquisition request by the image data acquisition request notification step;

an image data decoding step of decoding the image data received by the image data reception step based on the decoding program executed by the decoding program execution step; and

an image data display step of displaying the image data decoded by the image data decoding step.

17. (Canceled).

18. (Original) An image transfer method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said WWW server executes:

an acquisition request reception step of receiving an acquisition request outputted from any of said terminal equipments over said network;

an acquisition request analysis step of analyzing the acquisition request received by the acquisition request reception step;

a decoding program signaling step of signaling, when it is analyzed by the acquisition request analysis step that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for a decoding program for image data decoded in accordance with the coding method, the decoding program to the terminal equipment; and

a transmission step of transmitting the decoding program signaled by the decoding program signaling step as a response to the acquisition request to the terminal equipment.

19. (Original) An image transfer method as claimed in claim 15, wherein said WWW server executes:

an acquisition, request reception step of receiving an acquisition request outputted from any of said terminal equipments over said network;

an acquisition request analysis step of analyzing the acquisition request received by the acquisition request reception step;

a decoding program signaling step of signaling, when it is analyzed by the acquisition request analysis step that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for a decoding program for image data decoded in accordance with the coding method, the decoding program to the terminal equipment; and

a transmission step of transmitting the decoding program signaled by the decoding program signaling step as a response to the acquisition request to the terminal equipment.

20. (Previously Presented) An image transfer method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said decoding program acquisition request notification step only sends the notification of an acquisition request for a decoding program to said WWW server when an Applet tag is determined to be included in the HTML document received by said any of said terminal equipments.